UNITED
NATIONS

A S

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/513
S/1996/857
16 October 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 43
THE SITUATION IN BURUNDI

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 15 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the United Republic of Tanzania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you the full text of the joint communiqué of the Third Arusha Regional Summit on Burundi, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 12 October 1996 (see annex). The communiqué was unanimously adopted by all the participants present.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Daudi N. MWAKAWAGO
Ambassador

ANNEX

Joint communiqué of the Third Arusha Regional Summit on Burundi, held at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, on 12 October 1996

1. At the invitation of President Benjamin Mkapa of the United Republic of Tanzania, Presidents Daniel arap Moi of Kenya, Yoweri Museveni of Uganda and Frederick Chiluba of Zambia, Pasteur Bizimungu of Rwanda, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia and Kengo wa Dondo of Zaire, met on 12 October 1996 at Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania, to review the situation in Burundi after the imposition of economic sanctions.

2. Also participating in the Regional Summit were the Minister of External Relations of Cameroon, Hon. Ferdinand Leopold Oyono, representing the current Chairman of the Organization of African Unity, the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity, Dr. Salim Ahmed Salim, and the Facilitator of the Burundi Peace Talks, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere.

3. The Regional Summit received and took note of the report of the Ministerial Technical Committee on the implementation and coordination of the economic sanctions imposed on 31 July 1996 in an effort to obtain a peaceful settlement of the Burundi crisis.

4. The Summit reaffirmed the commitment and solidarity of the countries of the region in their ongoing efforts to achieve lasting peace and stability in Burundi through a negotiated settlement.

5. The Regional Summit expressed its satisfaction with the implementation of the sanctions and commended the countries of the region and other implementing countries for the cooperation and cohesion shown in applying the sanctions to ensure the attainment of the intended objective. It also commended the support extended to the countries of the region by the international community and in particular the United Nations through Security Council resolution 1072 (1996) and the Organization of African Unity.

6. The Summit reiterated that the objective of the sanctions was to serve as an effective means of securing a negotiated settlement between all the parties to the conflict in Burundi in an effort to avert a human disaster in that country. That should also remain a common objective of the international community as a whole and deserved its continued support.

7. The Regional Summit also took note of the exemptions already granted in respect of fertilizers and vegetable seeds in recognition of the steps taken by the Buyoya regime towards meeting the conditions set by the Second Arusha Regional Summit. It also undertook further to respond positively should the regime enter into negotiations with all parties to the conflict in the context of the Second Arusha Regional Summit. It commended the work of the Regional Sanctions Coordinating Committee and directed the latter to ensure the speedy implementation of decisions already taken or to be taken with respect to exemptions on humanitarian grounds.

8. The Summit emphasized that the central requirement of the Second Arusha Regional Summit was unconditional negotiation of all parties to the conflict and armed factions inside and outside the country. The Summit decided that those negotiations, in the context of the Mwanza Peace Process, should start within a period of one month from the date of the present communiqué. The preparatory phase of those negotiations should commence immediately. The Summit further expressed its readiness to take appropriate measures against any group or faction that refused to participate in the negotiations or placed obstacles in the way of the peace process.

9. The Summit reiterated that sanctions were not imposed for the benefit of, or to the detriment of, any group or faction. The imposition of sanctions was intended, inter alia, to exert the necessary pressure in order to achieve the political objective of a negotiated and peaceful solution to the conflict.

10. The Summit was briefed by the Facilitator on the contacts and efforts he had made towards promoting negotiations since the Second Arusha Regional Summit. In that connection, the Summit was informed by the Facilitator that he had now received a written communication from Major Buyoya confirming the latter's commitment to enter into negotiations with the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD) and all other armed factions that were ready to negotiate. In view of that development, the Summit decided to send a ministerial delegation to Bujumbura to follow up on that development, so as to enable the countries of the region to evaluate the situation and take appropriate action.

11. The Regional Summit expressed its appreciation to President Mkapa, his Government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for hosting the Summit and extending the usual hospitality to the Heads and delegations.